

Monday: 14/12/20

James 1:22-25

Mirrors have been deemed magical to many over the great span of history. While the way a mirror reflects back a clear image of the face has been both enchanting and dismaying.

How often we take time to look at our reflection. Making sure we are presentable. Once I neglected to take time and look after shaving. I ended up with little cuts all over my face. A tragic thing considering I was meeting the Premier of New South Wales for lunch that day. James warns us about being complacent and just skimming over scripture. Just as foolish as what I had done. We need to take time and really peruse and grasp what we read.

I will look listen and learn your Holy Word.

Tuesday: 15/12/20

1 Timothy 6:12

Fight the good fight and stand your ground. We are challenged to by Timothy to not forget our salvation when times get rough. We are told that we have proclaimed our faith in front of many witnesses. So how can we later fail to stand strong and ready for the faith that has guaranteed our promise of 'eternal life.

There are times when I have spoken to some and said the words 'God bless', I found myself the target of aggression. They seem to find offence at the verbal gesture as if I have somehow insulted them personally. Does this sway me from sharing my faith? I would pray it would never be so.

I stand ready at all times to defend my faith.

Wednesday: 16/12/20

Matthew 5:16

Not for my sake but for my God's sake alone.

The concept of doing something in an altruistic way has been a topic of many philosophical debates. There are those who attest that it is impossible for anyone to truly do something altruistically. That is without any sense of receiving a reward for the acts.

Yet here we are encouraged and urged to do all that we do to glorify not ourselves but our God and Father who is in heaven.

By doing this we may be able to truly do altruistic acts of kindness. As we are not focused on ourselves and therefore not looking for recognition or reward. Only focused on giving God the accolade.

Every act of love I do I do to the Glory of God.

Thursday: 17/12/20

Luke 2:10

Christmas is a frantic time of the year when we are coerced into buying gifts to show loved ones just how much we value them. Yet this is just one day of a usually 365 day year. Perhaps the real emphasis should be on the reason for the season.

In reality we should value our family and close friends every day of the 365 days of the year. Not to forget leap years when we have an extra day to do so.

The perfect gift that we and everyone else will and should celebrate is that of the birth of Jesus the Christ. We are meant to shine our faith throughout the year. Yet on this most joyous occasion we really should be 100% focused on our Lord and Saviour.

May my hear sing your praise at this joyous time.

Friday: 18/12/20

John 8:12

Depression has a nasty way of casting a shadow on everything we experience. It can create a perpetual tunnel of darkness where there is no light up ahead beckoning us on.

Jesus has thankfully come into the world so that we don't need to stumble in such a darkness. We are afforded a beautiful spiritual light that can show us the path ahead of us. We just need to open our eyes and look to it to be raised from the despair of depression. Admittedly it is not always easy to do this when our depression is physical. Though we can take comfort in knowing that Jesus is there for us through it all.

Even in my darkest hour I know you are there.

Saturday: 19/12/20

Galatians 4:4

What if? There have been plenty playing the what if game. They take a point in time and ask what would happen if it were different. I have asked such questions. Such as 'what if Southern forces at the Battle of Fort Stevens had entered Washington DC instead of pulling back'? Such a move could have ended the war before it had even got started.

The question with Christmas is 'what if Jesus was not born as prophesied?'. The world would be different. There'd be no hope of life after death. Or reconciliation with God. We should be truly thankful Jesus was born.

There is on Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Expectations



There is a soft hum.
A gentle rhythm.
The soft warm murmur of a child's heart beat.
That moves like the wind.
Over this sun burnt land.

There is a secret.
Written in the stars.
Like deep woven stories of ancient dream times.
Carved on silent stone.
That speaks across time.

Through generations.
The distant voices.
Of a choir of angelic beings sing.
In wonder and praise.
Rejoicing as one.

Then there is silence.
As heaven and earth.
Hold their breath in awe, for the baby that sleeps.
Is a glowing star.
A promise fulfilled.

MJ Flack

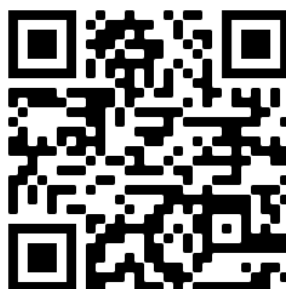
Bowenfels Presbyterian Church



***We believe in the Bible over all of life
and that Salvation is: In Christ alone,
by Grace alone, through Faith alone.***

Our Church Website

<http://bowenfelspresbyterianparish.org.au>



Affiliate Website

Benediction

<http://benediction.org.au>

Six days to Sunday



**Stepping Stones
of Faith
20 12 14**